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May 27, 1993

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Ms. Donna R. Searcy  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: PR Docket No. 92-235

Dear Ms. Searcy:

Transmitted herewith for filing are an original and ten copies of the Comments of Western Tele-Communications Inc. in response to the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, released November 6, 1992, in the above referenced proceeding.

If there are any questions concerning this matter, please contact this office directly.

Yours sincerely,

*[Handwritten signature]*

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Before The

**Federal Communications Commission**

Washington, D.C. 20554

In The Matter Of

Replacement of Part 90 by Part 88  
to Revise the Private Land Mobile  
Radio Services and Modify the  
Policies Governing Them

PR Docket No. 92-235

**Comments of Western  
Tele-Communications, Inc.**

Western Tele-Communications, Inc. ("WTCI"), by its attorneys, hereby submits its Comments in response to the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("NPRM"), released November 6, 1992 in the above docket, proposing changes in Part 90 of the Rules. By Order (DA 93-145), released February 9, 1993, the date for filing Comments was extended to May 28, 1993.

**I. INTRODUCTION**

WTCI agrees with the Commission's primary intent and direction regarding improved spectrum efficiency in the private land mobile radio services ("PLMRS") below 512 MHz. The proposed replacement of Rule Part 90 with Part 88 appears to be a major step towards implementing increased spectrum capacity and facilitating new operating practices and technologies. However, WTCI does share concerns with the industry regarding the transition period proposed and

the expense to convert to the new narrowband technology. The implementation of the proposed power restrictions would also be very disruptive to WTCI's existing telephone maintenance system which is operated in tandem with its extensive long haul, common carrier microwave system.

WTCI is a major communications carrier operating in excess of 10,000 miles of microwave routes in eleven (11) western states. It operates and holds licenses for more than 100 telephone maintenance radio stations (450 - 456 MHz) and several hundred associated mobile units used by its maintenance personnel in communicating via and between these stations. WTCI's telephone maintenance facilities are needed to ensure the safety and prompt response of its personnel and to maintain dependable, high quality service in the rugged, mountainous terrain of most western states. The majority of WTCI's telephone maintenance stations are located in sparsely populated areas and at the higher elevations prevalent in the western half of the United States; therefore, adequate power and coverage are essential for the proper functioning of its system.

Accordingly, WTCI urges the Commission to adopt new rules and transition procedures that will enable its telephone maintenance system to operate without interference, at adequate power levels for the higher elevations and longer distances involved, and for the useful life of its telephone maintenance equipment which is 10 years or more, or at least through the year 2004.

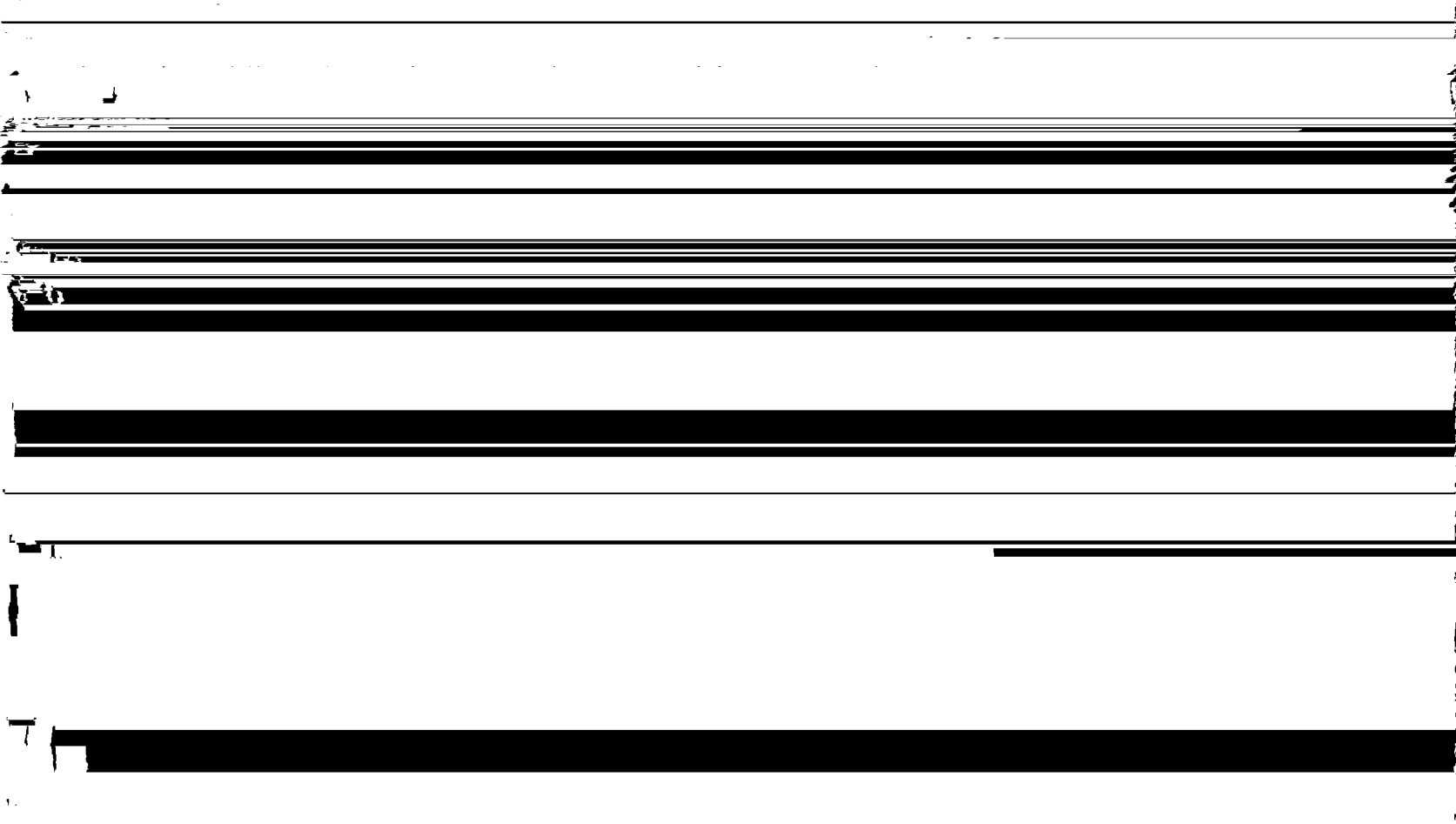
The following comments set forth WTCI's specific concerns and recommendations with respect to the rule changes proposed in this rulemaking proceeding.

## II. THE TRANSITION PLAN FOR THE 421 - 512 MHz

licensees to use their existing radio equipment and investment, and that will foster a step-by-step increase in the utilization of the relevant frequency spectrum. WTCI therefore urges the Commission to promulgate rules that provide for continued wide-band, interference-free operation in the 421 - 521 MHz frequency range for ten years or more, or at least through 2004.

### III. THE MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE POWER LEVELS SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE THE POWER OUTPUT REQUIRED BY LICENSEE SYSTEMS

The station ERP limitations and spacing requirements proposed by the NPRM in new Part 88 of the Rules would unduly restrict the operation of WTCI's telephone maintenance system. WTCI's system is designed to permit maintenance personnel and system managers to



WTCI therefore supports the LMCC "Safe Harbor" proposal and table of permissible power/height combinations based on the HAAT of the station's antenna and the licensee's required coverage area. The adoption of these recommended power levels, or those similar thereto, rather than the unduly restrictive power limitations proposed by the NPRM, is essential to the continued operation of WTCI's telephone maintenance systems along microwave radio routes traversing remote and mountainous terrain. Without reasonable power levels, the coverage area of WTCI's system would be significantly restricted, requiring WTCI to expend considerable financial resources and increasing the safety hazards for maintenance personnel operating in difficult terrain and adverse weather conditions.

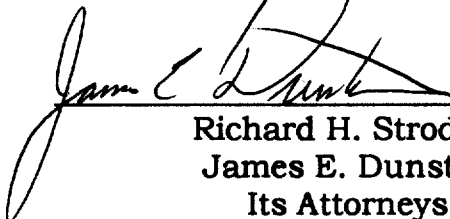
#### IV. CONCLUSION

WTCI supports the general proposal of the NPRM to improve the spectrum efficiency of the PLMRS below 512 MHz. However, the Commission must provide a reasonable transition period for the new narrowband operations that enables licensees to utilize their existing radio equipment and to make the other adjustments that may be required by the new operating rules. WTCI is also of the firm belief that the proposed ERP/HAAT limitations must be modified to permit the continued operation of existing telephone maintenance systems. Accordingly, WTCI respectfully urges the Commission to adopt rules in this rule making proceeding that take into account and are consistent with WTCI's recommendations with respect to continued wide band

operations through 2004 and reasonable power levels permitting continued and safe operation of its telephone maintenance system.

Respectfully submitted,

Western Tele-Communications,  
Inc.



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